Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report 2004-2005

Saskatchewan Government Relations

Saskatchewan Centennial 2005

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This annual report can be viewed and downloaded at http://www.gr.gov.sk.ca/publications.htm.
Government Relations main website address is www.gr.gov.sk.ca.

Ministers' Letter of Transmittal

The Honourable Dr. Lynda M. Haverstock
Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

Your Honour:

It is our privilege to submit to you the Annual Report of Saskatchewan Government Relations for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Atkinson
Minister Responsible for Immigration

Len Taylor
Minister of Government Relations

Joan Beatty
Provincial Secretary

Deputy Minister's Letter of Transmittal

The Honourable Pat Atkinson
Minister Responsible for Immigration

The Honourable Len Taylor
Minister of Government Relations

The Honourable Joan Beatty
Provincial Secretary

Dear Ministers:

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of Saskatchewan Government Relations for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey Brooks
Deputy Minister
Government Relations
Deputy Provincial Secretary

Introduction

This annual report describes the actual results for the key actions and performance measures for Government Relations that were published in the *2004-05 Performance Plan*, which was released in March 2004 and can be accessed at the following website address: http://www.gr.gov.sk.ca/publications.htm. It reflects the restructuring of the former Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs into two new departments, effective October 1, 2004: Government Relations, and First Nations and Métis Relations.

This annual report also describes results for Government Relations associated with the key actions included in the department's *Budget and Performance Plan Summary for 2004-05*, which is the government-wide plan released with the 2004-05 budget and can be accessed at the following website address: http://www.gov.sk.ca/finance/budget/budget04/budgetsummary.pdf. Enhancements to this annual report are tied to continued implementation of the provincial government's Accountability Framework.

Additional enhancements to the 2004-05 annual report focus on additional analysis and explanation of performance results, as well as the addition of actual full-time equivalents (FTEs) in relation to budget FTEs, along with explanations of significant variances. Reporting on actual year-end results, both financial and performance, as compared to a plan released at the start of the year increases public accountability.

The department's *2005-06 Performance Plan* was released with the provincial budget on March 23, 2005, and can be accessed, along with previous annual reports and performance plans, at http://www.gr.gov.sk.ca/publications.htm.

Who We Are

Mandate

Government Relations' (GR) mandate is to promote Saskatchewan's interests through management of the province's relations with other governments, in Saskatchewan, in Canada and abroad. The department works in partnership with communities to support local governance, provide financial and technical support and develop legislation, regulations and other policies to meet the changing needs of municipal governments. It also provides services related to Government House, French-language services, official protocol, provincial honours, ceremonial and celebratory special events, and provides administrative services to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Vision

Government Relations works collectively and cohesively toward the department's vision that:

The citizenship of Saskatchewan people is enriched by:

- creating and maintaining respectful, responsive and effective partnerships between governments in Saskatchewan, Canada and abroad;
- celebrating our heritage and honouring our achievements.

Key programs and services

Government Relations is a diverse department with several main areas of responsibility. We function in a challenging environment with a broad mandate and often partner with other government departments in order to achieve our goals. In some instances, our ability to achieve these goals is impacted by national and global influences.

There are three main areas that work together to deliver our mandate: Intergovernmental Relations, Municipal Relations and the Provincial Secretary.

Intergovernmental Relations

Intergovernmental Relations has a domestic or Canadian focus, namely the management of federal-provincial, including constitutional, and inter-provincial relations, and an international focus, including trade policy, international relations and immigration.

The Office of French-language Co-ordination (OFLC) acts as a liaison between the provincial government and the Francophone community of Saskatchewan by providing a quality translation service, by supporting departments, Crown corporations and agencies with a view to improving French-language services in the province and by co-ordinating intragovernmental French-language initiatives. As well, the OFLC provides the Francophone community with an access point into the provincial government.

Federal-provincial and constitutional relations advance Saskatchewan's economic, social and constitutional interests through the strategic management of intergovernmental partnerships within Canada. The trade policy function manages the provincial development and intergovernmental negotiation of policies related to domestic and international trade negotiations, while international relations manages the pursuit of the government's interests abroad. Immigration supports economic immigration to meet critical labour market needs and business opportunities in the province, and addresses issues in services and credential recognition for immigrants and refugees.

The primary partners for these functions - both domestic and international - are other Canadian governments and organizations involved in managing the intergovernmental dimensions of these files.

Municipal Relations

Municipal Relations provides financial, advisory and technical support and develops programs, legislation, regulations and other policies to establish a framework for local government to meet the changing needs of Saskatchewan people in 487 urban municipalities, 296 rural municipalities and 24 northern municipalities. The division's role includes working with the municipal sector to build good local government and defining and protecting public interests in Saskatchewan's system of local government and land use development. The division is also responsible for municipal administration and operations in the Northern Administration District.

Key partners include municipal councils and administrators, municipal associations, community planners and property assessment appraisers. The division also works closely with other provincial departments, other provinces and territories, and the federal government in carrying out its responsibilities.

Provincial Secretary

Provincial Secretary includes the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Office of Protocol and Honours and Government House Museum and Heritage Property.

The Office of Protocol and Honours is responsible for official visits and functions, state ceremonies, and the provincial Honours and Awards Program. Government House is a key provincial heritage property, whose mandate is to provide tourist and educational programs to schools and the community-at-large, a government hospitality facility, and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Saskatchewan's Centennial Year (2005) offers an opportunity for increased recognition and celebration events. Provincial Secretary will be leading many of these initiatives.

The provincial government's Honours and Awards Program (the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal, the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal, the Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award and the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service) recognizes contributions of our citizens that are vital to the well-being of Saskatchewan people.

These offices interact routinely with members of the public, and with organizations sharing an interest in Saskatchewan's heritage, culture, and the promotion of the accomplishments of our people.

Service-delivery system

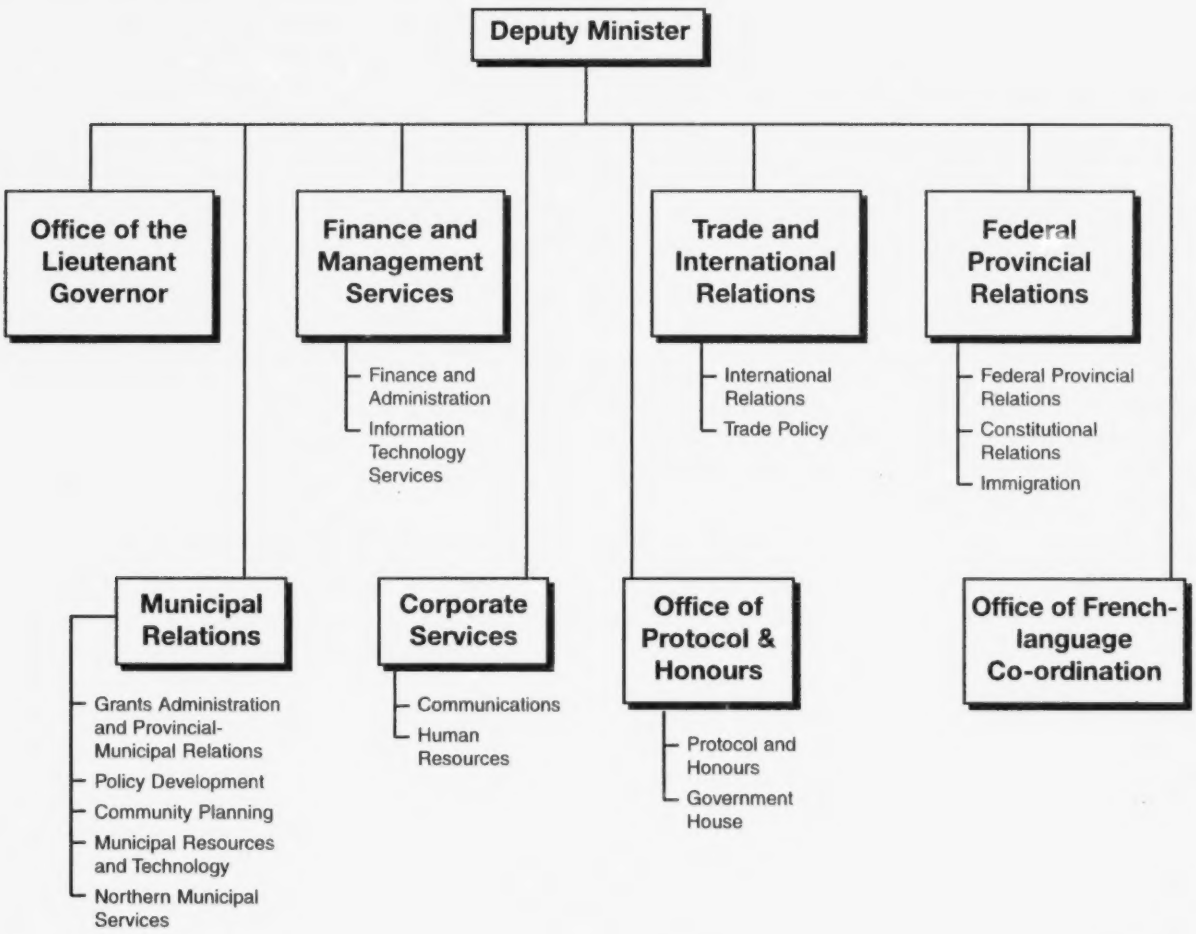
The department employs approximately 180 people, with offices in Regina, Saskatoon, La Ronge and Buffalo Narrows.

Organizational changes

As mentioned in the Introduction, the former Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs (GRAA) underwent significant restructuring in October 2004 that resulted in the creation of two new departments: Government Relations, and First Nations and Métis Relations. As a result, the goals, objectives, performance and financial results being reported on are those of the former Department of GRAA, with the exception of the Aboriginal Affairs division. The results associated with the Aboriginal Affairs division of the former Department of GRAA are reported in the 2004-05 Annual Report for the new Department of First Nations and Métis Relations.

Organization Chart

As of March 31, 2005



2004-05 Results at a Glance

Summary of Performance Results

The department made significant progress in advancing its goals in 2004-05. Following are highlights of the most significant performance results by strategic goal:

Goal 1. Canada's constitutionally recognized communities and people are acknowledged, respected and supported within our province and federation.

- Developed the implementation guidelines for the Government of Saskatchewan French-language Services Policy and the Government of Saskatchewan French-language Services Strategic Plan (2005-09) to assist departments, Crown corporations and agencies in implementing the Government of Saskatchewan French-language Services Policy.
- Continued relationship building between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Fransaskois community.

Goal 2. Saskatchewan's social, economic, and constitutional interests are advanced, and its values are recognized and reflected, within a strong, united Canadian federation and within the international community.

- First Ministers reached an agreement on health reform that included new federal investments into federal health transfers. First Ministers also addressed the reform of the Equalization program through a new framework for Equalization.
- Continued negotiation and delivery of an intergovernmental work plan for the newly established Council of the Federation.
- Advanced Saskatchewan's objectives in international and domestic trade negotiations, including the World Trade Organization (WTO), North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), new initiatives involving the U.S., the European Union, Japan and South Korea and the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT), and in trade disputes involving wheat, softwood lumber, BSE and live swine.
- Advanced provincial economic and environmental interests in the U.S. through a proactive intergovernmental engagement initiative involving our border-States, mid-western States (through the Midwestern Legislative Conference) and western States (through the Western Governors' Association).
- Continued work on current and long-term labour market needs and economic development opportunities through an expanded Skilled Worker Category under the Saskatchewan Immigration Nominee Program (SINP), as well as targeted initiatives to recruit long haul truck drivers and skilled workers from key overseas countries.
- Finalized an agreement with the federal government to help attract foreign students to Saskatchewan institutions and encourage them to remain in the province through post-graduate work experience and established a Graduated Foreign Student category under the SINP.
- Established a federal-provincial partnership for development of an Enhanced Language Training (ELT) initiative and developed an implementation strategy for delivering ELT services in the province.
- Developed proposals for an Immigrant Internship Pilot Project to meet immigrant employment and language training needs not met under ELT and to enhance the client assessment and referral capacity of Saskatchewan's settlement agencies.

Goal 3. Respectful, effective municipal-provincial relationships that strengthen the quality of local governance for the benefit of Saskatchewan residents.

- Increased revenue sharing to municipalities by providing an additional $10 million for a total of $85 million per year and implemented a new revenue sharing formula to distribute funding among cities.
- Announced a provincial and federal government agreement on the Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructure

Fund (CSMRIF) that will provide $152 million in provincial, federal and municipal funding for municipal infrastructure.

- Approved 92 municipal projects under the Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program (CSIP) for $30 million in federal and provincial funding.
- Announced $110 million in education property tax relief for 2005 and 2006.
- Continued to negotiate with the federal government and approved provincial funding for urban development agreements for Regina and Saskatoon.
- Worked with the federal government and the municipal sector to develop an agreement on new federal funding under the 'New Deal'.
- Worked with the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) and the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) to develop a new *Municipalities Act* and developed amendments for phase one renewal of *The Planning and Development Act, 1983*.
- Enhanced northern planning services and developed partnerships with local municipalities and First Nations to establish a Northern Planning Commission.
- Announced the property tax percentages of value for the 2005 revaluation and changes to some municipal tax tools to simplify the property tax system.
- Provided new funding for the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) and governance changes to help ensure a sustainable and stable assessment system, as recommended by the Boughen Commission.

Goal 4. Saskatchewan's identity, heritage and the achievements of our people are honoured, promoted and celebrated.

- Managed Centennial plans, including implementation of the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal Program, in conjunction with the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation where appropriate.
- Completed the Queen's Golden Jubilee Statue Project.
- Established the Saskatchewan Remembers Committee.
- Managed Government House Centennial Project, a major expansion which was completed, opened and celebrated during the provincial centennial year.
- Prepared for the Centennial visit of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh in May 2005.

Summary of Financial Results

In 2004-05, Government Relations' budget for expenditures was $149.7 million. Actual expenditures were $148.5 million.

The 2004-05 Government Relations revenue budget was $12.6 million. Actual 2004-05 revenues were $12.3 million.

For 2004-05, the comparison of actual to budgeted FTEs was 178 to 183.

2004-05 Performance Results

The purpose of this section is to report on and explain the detailed performance results associated with all key actions and performance measures in the department's *2004-05 Performance Plan.*

The department uses these results to assess overall progress towards achieving its goals and objectives each year, and in turn, to inform or adjust future plans and actions.

For example, many of the 2004-05 results have contributed to further strengthening the relationship between the provincial government and the municipal sector and the capacity of local governments. This includes increased revenue sharing, municipal infrastructure, property tax relief, SAMA and urban development funding, and the work with SUMA and SARM to develop a new *Municipalities Act.* The department will continue to build on this by working with the municipal associations to develop an agreement with the federal government on funding under the New Deal and to develop information and orientation materials to prepare municipalities for the new *Municipalities Act.*

Another example is the expansion of the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP). Targeted promotion and recruitment initiatives are increasing the number of immigrants who are eligible to be nominated to work in Saskatchewan. These changes have helped SINP nominations expand from 52 at the end of 2003-04 to 242 at the end of 2004-05.

The key actions presented in our 2004-05 plan are listed below, followed by a report on our actual progress for each. Actual results information is included for all key actions and performance measures that were published in our *2004-05 Performance Plan*, as well as for all commitments related to Government Relations in the government-wide *2004-05 Performance Plan Summary.*

Additional information about our performance measures for 2004-05 is available on our website at http://www.gr.gov.sk.ca/PDFs/performance_plans/2004-05.pdf.

Goal 1. Canada's constitutionally recognized communities and people are acknowledged, respected and supported within our province and federation.

Objective 1. Enhance the delivery of French-language services in Saskatchewan in sectors important to Saskatchewan's Francophone community.

The Government of Saskatchewan recognizes that equitable access to provincial government services in French is essential to sustaining the Francophone community's development and its ability to maintain its contribution to the social, economic and cultural development of Saskatchewan. The Fransaskois community has a blueprint for community development called the *Plan de développement global (PDG).* The PDG is a comprehensive development plan that outlines a vision, mission, values, operational sectors, activity sectors and desired outcomes. The eight priority activity sectors are: arts, culture and heritage; communications; economic development; education; home and spirituality; politics and law; health; and sports and recreation.

Important strides were made towards enhancing the delivery of French-language services in Saskatchewan in 2004-05. For example, in close consultation with departments, Crowns and agencies, the implementation guidelines for the Government of Saskatchewan French-language Services Policy were drafted along with a Strategic Plan that will assist the provincial government in making progress with regard to improving and enhancing French-language services. In addition, relationship-building with the Francophone community continued as several departments closely collaborated with Francophone associations to realize certain significant projects. For example, Saskatchewan Health, in partnership with the Francophone community, coordinated two projects with regard to increasing and enhancing primary health services delivered to Francophones in the province. As well, the Department of Justice together with the Francophone community, organized an all day forum to discuss French-language justice services. Moreover, several large-scale translation projects were undertaken by the Office of French-language Co-ordination such as the Budget Speech, the Labour Standards

Board's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities, as well as Saskatchewan Environment's Anglers' Guide.

Key Results

- Consult with departments and key agencies to develop a workable timeframe, realistic guidelines and pilot projects as the initial steps in the implementation of the Government of Saskatchewan French-language Services Policy. [2004-05 planned result]
  - In June 2004, the Office of French-language Co-ordination (OFLC) launched an internal consultation process. As at March 31, 2005, the OFLC has conducted 19 consultation meetings with departments, agencies and Crown corporations. Although more consultations need to be conducted during 2005-06, the first round of consultations has generally been positive and informative. Some of the main comments OFLC has ascertained from these meetings include openness to the policy, a concern for lack of financial and human resources and the importance of validation with the Francophone community.
- Prepare the annual report detailing progress in achieving the service goals as set out in the French-language Services Policy. [2004-05 planned result]
  - Some preliminary discussions have taken place with the Joint Provincial Government - Francophone Community Liaison Committee on French-language Services (Joint Liaison Committee) on the most relevant content and best format for the annual report. OFLC staff will begin work on drafting the annual report in the months following the end of the fiscal year. The information gathered during the internal consultation process regarding current initiatives will serve as a good starting point.
- Maintain effective consultation between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Fransaskois community through a minimum of four meetings per year of the Joint Liaison Committee. [2004-05 planned result]
  - The Joint Liaison Committee met four times in 2004-05. The committee members and the follow-up sub-committee continued to focus their attention primarily on their new role under the French-language Services Policy and the possibility of establishing a Canada-Saskatchewan Bilingual Service Centre. The Committee also adopted the practice of holding meetings at different provincial departments as a way to learn more about the various departments and to promote the Committee and its role.
- Facilitate partnerships with the Fransaskois community and support achievement of service goals under the French-language Services Policy through regular meetings of the OFLC Department Liaison Network. [2004-05 planned result]
  - The OFLC Department Liaison Network, now known as the OFLC Intragovernmental Liaison Network, met three times in 2004-05. Topics discussed at these meetings included feedback on the proposed policy implementation guidelines, the consultation process and the role of the Liaison Network representatives. At the January 27, 2005, OFLC Intragovernmental Liaison Network Meeting, participants discussed at length and made recommendations on the Government of Saskatchewan French-language Services Strategic Plan (2004-09).
  - The OFLC supported French-language services projects and facilitated meetings between Fransaskois community organizations and provincial departments and agencies. (Examples: Immigration Branch meetings with the *Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise* to explore opportunities to promote Saskatchewan as a destination for Francophone immigration;

Saskatchewan Health's collaboration with the francophone community on a project called "Setting the Stage," an initiative to improve and enhance the delivery of French-language primary health care services; Justice's collaboration with the Francophone community on an all-day forum focusing on French-language justice services.)

- The OFLC received 423 translation requests from over 25 departments, agencies and commissions, with 403,179 words translated as at March 31, 2005. OFLC received 34 more translation requests than last year, an increase of roughly nine per cent, and translated 42,811 words, an increase of approximately 12 per cent. The Saskatchewan Institute on Prevention of Handicaps, Healthy Parenting website, the Anglers' Guide, and the Labour Standards Board's Guide to Rights and Responsibilities, were among the large-scale translation projects undertaken during the fiscal year.

- Ensure effective use of funding provided under a renewed Promotion of Official Languages Agreement for provincial French-language services initiatives. [2004-05 planned result]

  - On March 31, 2004, by mutual consent of the Ministers responsible, the Canada-Saskatchewan General Agreement on the Promotion of Official Languages (POL) was extended for the period April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005.

- Collaborate with federal, provincial and territorial counterparts on establishing mechanisms to facilitate joint/multilateral French-language services initiatives. [2004-05 planned result]

  - Discussions among members of the Officials Responsible for Francophone Affairs national network, in regard to a strategic plan template and a model agreement for the next generation of federal-provincial agreements, were completed in 2004-05. The OFLC Director sat on this working group, and Saskatchewan was among three provinces that tested the proposed strategic plan template.

  - On April 15, 2004, the OFLC submitted a special project seeking supplementary funding under the POL Agreement for the establishment of Canada-Saskatchewan Bilingual Service Centre (BSC) as a pilot project. The overall aim of the BSC is to improve the access to and the quality of government services in French in Saskatchewan. Approval of the BSC is pending.

  - The OFLC continues to be an active supporter of regional projects. For example, funding was confirmed for the regional training project providing French-language professional development opportunities to French-speaking court professionals in Western Canada. Two sessions took place in 2004-05 and two more are planned for 2005-06.

Measurement Results

Per cent of survey respondents indicating that they are familiar with the OFLC and the services it offers (broken down by stakeholder group).

Baseline - December 2003	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005
Federal government - 77%	Federal government - 100%
Provincial government - 90%	Provincial government - 95%
Francophone community - 85%	Francophone community 89%

Data source: OFLC administered questionnaire sent to main stakeholders, including all Fransaskois community organizations, provincial departments and agencies, and federal government offices in Saskatchewan.

The level of awareness of key stakeholders was determined to be one of two sets of data that were the most accessible, affordable and relevant. This data is linked to the objective because the effectiveness of OFLC's work as a central

co-ordinating agency is key to enhancing the delivery of French-language services in the Province. In order for the OFLC to be effective in this role, all stakeholders must first be aware of and understand the OFLC's function.

The OFLC interacts on a regular basis with three sets of key stakeholders: Fransaskois community organizations, provincial civil servants, and federal employees in Saskatchewan. The OFLC works with provincial departments and agencies and the Fransaskois community to align opportunities for service enhancement with identified needs. The OFLC also pursues opportunities with federal counterparts, given that the federal government remains an important partner for French-language initiatives in the Province.

The Office of French-language Co-ordination sent out a Stakeholder Awareness and Satisfaction Survey by e-mail in January 2005 to the three groups identified above. There were 227 possible participants. The overall response rate was 32 per cent. The breakdown by stakeholder group was: federal government 27 per cent, provincial government 51 per cent, and Francophone community 18 per cent.

The OFLC will continue to consult with its stakeholder groups through regular meetings of the OFLC Intragovernmental Liaison Network (a network made up of provincial government representatives) and the Joint Liaison Committee (a committee made up of Francophone community representatives and provincial government employees). In addition to this regular interaction, the OFLC is confident that as the implementation of the French-language Services Policy progresses, the awareness level of stakeholders with the OFLC will increase.

Per cent of survey respondents indicating that they are satisfied with the quality of service(s) they receive from the OFLC (broken down by stakeholder group).

Baseline - December 2003	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005
Federal government - 54%	Federal government - 71%
Provincial government - 79%	Provincial government - 91%
Francophone community - 46%	Francophone community 74%

Data source: OFLC administered questionnaire - sent to main stakeholders, including all Fransaskois community organizations, provincial departments and agencies, and federal government offices in Saskatchewan.

The level of satisfaction of key stakeholders is the second of the two sets of data that were the most accessible, affordable and relevant. It represents another element needed for the OFLC to be effective in its central, co-ordinating role. Stakeholders must see OFLC involvement as value-added and this can be measured by their level of satisfaction with the services provided. The level of satisfaction was measured using the same January 2005 survey mentioned in the previous measure.

The OFLC will continue to facilitate and organize meetings between various provincial government organizations and the Francophone community. As well, the OFLC will continue to meet regularly with OFLC Intragovernmental Liaison Network and the Joint Liaison Committee. In addition to maintaining and enhancing this liaison role, the OFLC will continue in its primary role of providing a quality translation service to the provincial government.

Goal 2. Saskatchewan's social, economic, and constitutional interests are advanced, and its values are recognized and reflected, within a strong, united Canadian federation and within the international community.

Objective 1. Saskatchewan makes maximum use of intergovernmental instruments and fora to ensure that developments within Canadian federalism are: respectful of the constitution; enable the province to fulfill its responsibilities to citizens; and advance provincial policy priorities and interests.

Within the federation, the actions and policies of the federal government, and other governments, impact on Saskatchewan. It is important that Saskatchewan manage its intergovernmental relations in a fashion that impacts positively on these actions and policies, while at the same time supporting provincial interests and objectives, and minimizing risks and costs to the Province.

Federal-provincial and constitutional relations branches made considerable progress in managing the intergovernmental relations dimensions of various policy areas in 2004-05. Most notable in this regard were the outcomes of the First Ministers' Meeting on Health (September 2004), which recognized the province's longstanding concerns in respect of federal financing of our public health system and the need for health care reform. Through other forums, in particular the Western Premiers' Conference and the Council of the Federation annual meeting, Saskatchewan succeeded in advancing its concerns respecting major components of its social and economic agendas, including its strategy to address the effects of BSE, cooperation on a range of energy issues and an array of provincial priorities such as youth engagement, literacy and public safety/security.

Key Results

- Ensure that Saskatchewan is fully prepared to address various institutional proposals for reforming the practice of federalism. More specifically, for 2004-05, emphasis was focused around the negotiation and delivery of an intergovernmental work plan for the newly established Council of the Federation (CoF) and responding to new forums and approaches to federal-provincial relations that could be established by the new Prime Minister. [2004-05 planned result]
  - At its meeting on February 23-24, 2004, the CoF adopted and publicly released its work plan priorities. Significant progress has been achieved on several work plan items, most notably in the areas of health care reform and financing and internal trade.
  - Government Relations has been working with the Department of First Nations and Métis Relations to start the intergovernmental planning process for the upcoming First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues to be held in 2005.
- Work with the Department of Finance to ensure that the work of the new Secretariat on Fiscal Imbalance is integrated with the work of the CoF in a fashion that advances Saskatchewan's interests (both vertically and horizontally) in ongoing developments in federal-provincial fiscal relations. [2004-05 planned result]
  - Government Relations has been working with Saskatchewan Finance to advance Saskatchewan's interests regarding federal-provincial fiscal relations through the Council of the Federation and with the federal government.
  - First Ministers addressed federal-provincial fiscal relations at the First Ministers' Meeting on Health (September 2004) and the First Ministers' Meeting on Equalization (October 2004).

September 2004 First Ministers Agreement: New Funding for Health Care

Government Relations worked collaboratively with Saskatchewan Health and Finance in the development of Saskatchewan's strategic policy positions respecting health care reform and financing and successfully staffed the First Ministers' Meeting on Health (September 2004) that resulted in new investments by the federal government into federal health transfers to the provinces. The main elements of the new federal investments in health transfers include a total of $18 billion in new funding over a six-year period

(2004-05 to 2009-10) and a new base for health funding at $19 billion in 2005-06 which will be escalated six per cent a year beginning in 2006-07.

The following table provides a summary of the increases in federal funding under the First Ministers' Agreement on an annual basis. Estimates for Saskatchewan's shares are based on per capita distribution.

Increased Federal Funding Under the 2004 First Ministers' Meeting (FMM) Health Agreement and Estimated Saskatchewan Shares*

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	6-yr total
Total	2.125B	3.125B	3.440B	3.298B	3.029B	3.037B	2.125B
Sask Share	$66M	$97M	$107M	$102M	$94M	$94M	$560M

*Transfers to Saskatchewan are calculated on a 3.1% share. Final amounts will be determined by census results.

October 2004 First Ministers' Meeting: New Federal Framework for Equalization
Federal-Provincial Relations worked with Saskatchewan Finance and other provinces through such forums as the Council of the Federation to ensure that Saskatchewan's interests and perspectives in the ongoing development of federal-provincial fiscal relations were effectively captured and successfully staffed the October 2004 First Ministers' Meeting that resulted in the establishment of a new federal framework for equalization.

The main elements of the new Equalization Framework include the following:

- Relief from adjustments that would have otherwise been made to Saskatchewan's entitlements under the program going back three fiscal years (net gain of $367 million to the province).
- Establish a "floor" on overall entitlements for the next two years; $10 billion in 2004-05 and $10.9 billion in 2005-06.
- Create an escalator in overall entitlement levels of 3.5 per cent per year.
- Establish an independent panel of experts to review how the overall level of entitlements are allocated amongst provinces. The independent panel would make recommendations to the federal government in time to implement allocation decisions for the 2006-07 federal budget.

Following these two First Ministers' Meetings, Premiers agreed to establish a CoF panel to study and report to Premiers on the fiscal imbalance between the federal and provincial/territorial governments.

Government Relations has been working with Saskatchewan Finance to advance Saskatchewan's interests on federal-provincial fiscal relations through presentations to the federal government's Expert Panel on Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing and the House of Commons' Sub-Committee on Fiscal Imbalance.

Federal-Provincial Relations made significant progress in negotiating a new arrangement with the federal government for the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range.

- Act in an advisory capacity to the Premier and Ministers at various intergovernmental forums, including First Ministers' meetings and the CoF. [2004-05 planned result]
  - Government Relations acted in an advisory capacity to the Premier and Ministers at the following First Ministers' Meetings, Premiers' meetings and Ministerial meetings:
    - Western Premiers' Conference, July 2004: Western Premiers put forward proposals and initiatives for strengthening the federation, cooperation on energy issues, and the regulation of the securities industry.
    - Council of the Federation, August 2004: Premiers proposed a comprehensive plan for health care reform and financing.
    - Council of the Federation, September 2004: Premiers met to discuss health care reform and financing and proposed an agenda for the First Ministers' Meeting on Health.
    - First Ministers' Meeting, September 2004: First Ministers agreement on

health care reform and financing. First Ministers signed "A Ten Year Plan to Strengthen Health Care."

- First Ministers' Meeting, October 2004: First Ministers met to discuss reform of the Equalization program and other fiscal pressures.

- Improve the strategic focus of the Province's international relations by working with departments and agencies in the development and implementation of a framework document and positioning work plan for target countries. [2004-05 planned result]

  - Drafting of the framework document has been delayed due to staff reductions of one-third in 2004-05; completed draft pending the release of the federal foreign policy review in May 2005.

  - Played a lead role in F/P/T negotiations on new methods and mechanisms for involving P/Ts in the conduct of Canada's international relations, especially but not limited to Canada-U.S. relations.

  - Completed current phase of Saskatchewan's involvement in Canada-South Africa Twinning Project.

  - Reactivated Advisory Committee on Saskatchewan-Ukraine Relations.

  - Successfully hosted the Federal/Saskatchewan Diplomatic Forum (over 60 Ambassadors) in Regina.

  - Organized Saskatchewan's emergency response to the Asian tsunami, including financial contribution and provincial public service expertise assistance.

- Manage a proactive intergovernmental engagement initiative to advance provincial interest in the U.S., including staffing the Premier's annual meetings with western Governors and successfully promoting and hosting the U.S.-based Midwestern Legislative Conference in 2005 (supporting the Office of Protocol and Honours, the Speaker's and Legislative Assembly offices, Saskatchewan Tourism offices and the private sector in this respect). [2004-05 planned result]

  - Successfully managed and staffed the Premier at the Western Governors Association Annual General Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico, which resulted in positive resolution outcomes on: (a) BSE/border opening to live cattle trade; and (b) western regional energy development.

  - Successfully supported Minister's (and 20 MLAs') engagement in the Midwestern Legislative Conference's (MLC) Annual General Meeting in Des Moines, Iowa, which resulted in positive resolution outcomes on: (a) NAFTA 'next steps'; (b) a rapid re-opening of the border for trade in cattle and beef; (c) the development of a seamless Canada-U.S. system for livestock identification; and (d) Saskatchewan's hosting of the MLC's Annual General Meeting in Regina in 2005.

  - Successfully developed a series of legislative exchanges between the Government of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Legislature and legislative leadership from the states of Montana and North Dakota. Positive discussions were held with respect to: (a) agriculture; (b) transport; (c) environment; (d) economic development

- Staff the Premier and Minister on international missions involving intergovernmental or multi-sectoral interests. [2004-05 planned result]

  - Designed and developed a Premier-led "Team Saskatchewan" mission to Japan and China, which was postponed until fall 2005.

Measurement Results

A performance measure related to this objective was under development during 2004-05.

Objective 2. Working within the scope of its jurisdictional responsibilities, Saskatchewan uses immigration to support its economic and labour market objectives, and works with other governments, stakeholders and communities to help in the effective settlement of immigrants and refugees.

As in other small provinces, Saskatchewan's share of immigration to Canada has dropped significantly over the past two decades. While immigration is primarily a federal responsibility, the province can take actions to attract more skilled workers and economic immigrants, primarily through the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP). This can contribute to meeting Saskatchewan's labour market needs, its economic development, and its diversity. Under the SINP, Saskatchewan can define its own immigration priorities and selection criteria, and attract the type of immigrants it needs to address labour market and economic goals. Saskatchewan nominates prospective immigrants to the federal government who are reviewed by the appropriate federal visa post for health, security and criminality concerns. If no concerns are found, the visa post issues a permanent residence visa to the applicant enabling him or her to move to Saskatchewan. The department also works with service organizations and other federal and provincial departments to coordinate efforts to help settle and retain immigrants and refugees when they arrive.

Our initial target for 2004-05 was 300 nominations, and our actual number was 242. The variance can be attributed to the time required to fully implement the expanded Skilled Worker Category and to process some of the applications under the Saskatchewan Trucking Association's long haul trucker pilot project.

Key Results

- Address current and long-term labour market needs and economic development opportunities through SINP initiatives:
  - promotion and recruitment efforts in key overseas countries to attract skilled workers and farmers;
  - increased promotion to Saskatchewan employers;
  - testing an immigration model for semi-skilled occupations;
  - developing an avenue for nominating foreign students graduating in Saskatchewan who obtain work here; and
  - developing a new database tó track and monitor SINP applications and nominees. [2004-05 planned result]

  - Launched pilot project in partnership with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), Human Resources and Skills Development Canada and the Saskatchewan Trucking Association, that will bring 240 long-haul truckers to Saskatchewan. Assisted three trucking firms with two recruitment missions to UK to interview and hire 90 truckers who may be nominated through the SINP after satisfying work requirements.

  - May 2004 - Announced the SINP Graduated Student category, whereby students graduating from a post-secondary institution may apply to SINP for nomination after completing six months of employment with a Saskatchewan employer.

  - September 2004 - Accompanied a Saskatchewan company on a recruitment mission to Ukraine to interview 43 welders. Eighteen were hired and applied for nomination through SINP.

  - The SINP client database development stage was completed in 2004-05. The database is expected to be completed by the end of 2005-06.

- Consider the feasibility of further SINP expansion as recommended in *Open Up Saskatchewan!*, a report of the Legislative Secretary to the Premier on Immigration and Settlement, or other expansion options. [2004-05 planned result] and [2004-05 Performance Plan Summary]

- May 2004 - Announced plans for further expansion to SINP Skilled Worker and Business Categories.
- January 2005 - The expanded Skilled Worker category was announced.
- February 2005 - Announced creation of Minister's Business Advisory Group on the SINP.
- All *Open Up Saskatchewan!* recommendations on expanding the SINP have been, or are in the process of being, acted on.

■ Re-negotiate a five-year immigration framework agreement with the federal government and additional agreements that will help attract foreign students to Saskatchewan institutions. [2004-05 planned result]

- May 2004 - Signed MOU with CIC on a Second Year Work Permit pilot project targeting graduated foreign students who wish to pursue employment opportunities in Saskatchewan.
- Finalized a new Canada-Saskatchewan Immigration Framework Agreement. A joint federal-provincial media announcement was made in May 2005.

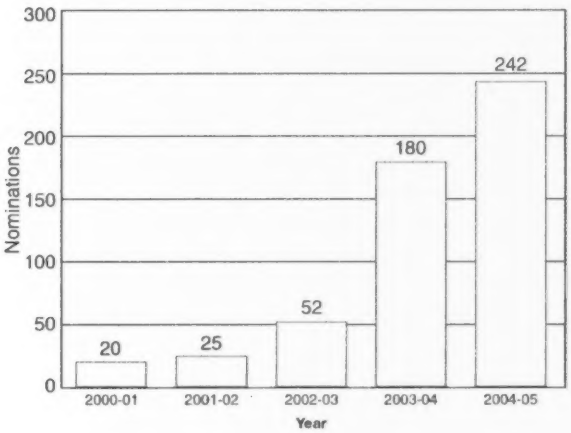
■ Work with government and non-government agencies represented in the Provincial Planning Council, four local co-ordinating committees and the Saskatchewan Association of Immigrant Settlement and Integration Agencies (SAISIA) to address information sharing, program co-ordination and other issues affecting immigrant settlement and retention in the Province, and develop Saskatchewan proposals for submission to the federal Enhanced Language Training Program for multi-year funding to design and implement language training and employment services in Saskatchewan. [2004-05 planned result]

- November 2004 - Saskatchewan entered into a cost-sharing agreement with the federal government for research and planning work in the province under the Enhanced Language Training (ELT) initiative. Funding was used to bring together a group of program area experts to carry out research and planning work, and to support extensive community consultations with stakeholders. Research and planning work included:
  - Immigrants' assessments (64 total) to identify language and employment needs of recent immigrants in the province;
  - Employers' interviews (60 total) to identify Saskatchewan employers' views on recruiting and hiring immigrants, and on language and other employment supports for immigrants in their workplaces;
  - Labour market language training curriculum to provide more advanced language training, in particular workplace-related and occupation-specific language training, as well as labour market information and orientation, to immigrants in the province;
  - Guides for ELT service deliverers on mentorship and work experience opportunities for immigrants;
  - A competencies framework identifying competencies required for the delivery of quality ELT services in the province; and,
  - Recommendations on a strategy for delivering ELT services in the province.
- An action plan to implement ELT service delivery in 2005-06 has been developed. The plan proposes to undertake work under the following two activity streams:
  - Implementation of ELT pilot projects. This will include work in the following areas:
    - Outreach and promotion with immigrants, employers, and mentors;
    - Professional development and training for service deliverers; and,
    - Direct client service.
  - Development and implementation of distance learning delivery options. A new multi-year contribution agreement will be negotiated with the federal government.

- Developed a proposal for an Immigrant Internship Pilot Project to meet immigrant employment and language training needs not met under ELT.
- Developed a proposal for implementing SAISIA's initial intake and assessment services model for immigrants. The model was developed by SAISIA with funding provided by the Immigration Branch in 2003-04.
- Work continues with the Regina and Moose Jaw Settlement and Integration Coordinating Committees to address local coordination of immigrant settlement services and programs. The Regina committee has established sub-committees on health and children/youth education issues. The Health Sub-committee has been working on the implementation of an initial health assessment process for immigrants and refugees, and on other initiatives to improve access to health services for newcomers. The Children and Youth Education Sub-committee has established several working groups who are developing academic and other program and service options and initiatives. The Moose Jaw committee is establishing an immigrant scholarship at SIAST - Palliser Campus. A fundraising banquet and dance was held in November 2004. Scholarship criteria are currently being developed.
- The Settlement and Integration Planning Council met twice in 2004-05 and continues to provide input on Saskatchewan's plan for the development and delivery of ELT pilot projects in the province and other initiatives.

Measurement Results

Number of provincial nominees per year under the Saskatchewan Immigrant Nominee Program (SINP)



Data source: GR-SINP program data

The SINP is Saskatchewan's only directly administered immigration program. All other immigrants enter under federally administered immigration classes. Saskatchewan's level of nominees is affected by the level of growth and job creation in the Saskatchewan economy, and by competition from other provinces and countries that are also facing labour market shortages and attempting to attract immigrants. Take-up of the program is also affected by the length of federal case processing times, which can make it difficult to meet the needs of Saskatchewan employers in a timely manner.

We will continue to expand the SINP in response to feedback from employers or industry associations and consideration will be given to an expanded business category and a family members category. Opportunities to create linkages between employers in Saskatchewan and overseas immigration recruitment opportunities will continue to be pursued. Investments in immigrant services such as Enhanced Language Training, the Immigrant Internship Project and other services delivered by third party agencies or community-based organizations will be made to ensure that immigrants have a positive settlement

experience. We will work with communities to help them welcome and settle nominees and to provide effective services and a welcoming environment for all immigrants to Saskatchewan.

Objective 2. Market access for Saskatchewan's exports is increased in a manner consistent with the government's economic, social, environmental and Aboriginal development policies/strategies.

Saskatchewan is one of the most trade-oriented provinces in Canada - in 2004, about 67 per cent of all the goods and services it produces were exported either to international or other Canadian markets. As the Province's formal economic development strategy, Partnership for Prosperity, recognizes, negotiating enhanced and secure access to other markets is essential to the Province's current and future economic performance. However, it is important that such access is supportive of other provincial development objectives.

Overall, this year was generally a promising one in terms of negotiating enhanced global, regional, bilateral and domestic market access of interest to the province's trade and investment communities. The World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations were brought back 'on track' after their collapse last year in Cancun (Mexico), a so-called 'NAFTA-Plus' agenda was agreed in North America, new bilateral initiatives were commenced with both 'mature' markets (such as the European Union, Japan and South Korea) and 'emerging' markets (such as China, Brazil, India and South Korea) and significant progress was made in re-energizing the Agreement on Internal Trade. However, on the trade dispute front, progress this year was limited, internationally, to a Canadian 'win' on access for live swine into the U.S. and, internally, to the edible oils and the cost-of-credit disclosure cases.

Key Results

- Identify/achieve Saskatchewan's objectives in priority international and domestic trade negotiating forums. [2004-05 planned result]
  - Re-articulated Saskatchewan's principal negotiating objectives for the World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations with Ottawa in advance of key WTO General Council meetings in July 2004, and raised concerns with Ottawa about several elements of the WTO's new 'Framework Negotiating Texts' resulting from the July WTO meeting.
  - Participated in NAFTA initiatives aiming to harmonize selected tariffs and liberalize certain sectors' rules-of-origin in order to reduce business transaction costs and induce greater exports and export-related investment.
  - Initiated work on identifying Saskatchewan market access opportunities in Korea in preparation for the potential negotiation of a Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement.
  - Saskatchewan is leading an F/P/T team in identifying options for improving the dispute resolution mechanism under the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) and is otherwise fully engaged on all other items in the Council of the Federation's new work plan on internal trade.
  - As part of 'Trade Team Saskatchewan', Government Relations played an important role in the completion and release of Saskatchewan's first ever 'State of Trade' Report.
- Successfully defend/advance Saskatchewan measures/interest in priority trade disputes. [2004-05 planned result]
  - Saskatchewan continued to aggressively defend and advance its interests in key international trade disputes involving wheat, softwood lumber, BSE and live swine - in this period, the latter was successfully resolved in Canada's and Saskatchewan's favour.
  - To the benefit of Saskatchewan's canola seed/oil sectors, Saskatchewan joined with Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba in a successful AIT challenge of Ontario measures related to the manufacture and sale of edible oil products. Ontario is in the process of implementing the panel's recommendations;
  - Saskatchewan joined with Alberta and Manitoba in an ongoing AIT challenge

against Quebec's margarine colouration measures which, if successful, will also benefit the Saskatchewan canola seed/oil sector;

- Saskatchewan supported Alberta in a successful AIT challenge against Ottawa's new cost-of-credit regulations. Full implementation of the panel's recommendations, expected in summer 2005, will benefit Saskatchewan's lending institutions.

Measurement Results

A performance measure related to this objective was under development during 2004-05.

The ability of the department to directly control the outcomes in international trade/investment negotiations and/or disputes related to increasing market access for Saskatchewan exports is limited. Internationally, the province is not at any of the negotiating tables and can, like the other 12 P/T governments in Canada, only advise our federal negotiators about Saskatchewan interests. Domestically, Saskatchewan is one of 14 jurisdictions at the negotiating table.

Goal 3. Respectful, effective municipal-provincial relationships that strengthen the quality of local governance for the benefit of Saskatchewan residents.

Objective 1. Department services and provincial funding that strategically assist municipal governments in governing and meeting the needs of their residents.

Municipalities benefit from provincial advisory and technical assistance and funding in order to meet the needs of their residents. The department works with SARM, SUMA, the Rural Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (RMAAS), the Urban Municipal Administrators Association of Saskatchewan (UMAAS), and New North-SANC Services Inc. to assist municipalities to meet the needs of their residents. The department assists municipalities in the key areas of building municipal leadership and administrative skills, compliance with legislation, regulations and financial requirements and developing community land use plans and zoning bylaws. It also provides funding to address critical municipal infrastructure needs and for municipal services.

Significant funding was committed that assists municipalities in providing services to their residents. This includes new revenue sharing, urban development agreements and infrastructure funding. Also, workshops, training sessions and advice have been provided to councillors and administrators to improve local decision making.

Key Results

- Address critical municipal infrastructure needs (water and sewer, transportation and others):
  - the remaining $28 million of federal-provincial funding under the Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program (CSIP) will be allocated. $18 million will be allocated to municipal applications, of which the majority will go to address critical water and sewer needs. Also, $10 million under the strategic component of CSIP will be allocated, from which up to $2 million will be allocated to northern water and sewer projects;
  - under the Northern Water and Sewer Program, $6.5 million will be allocated to 17 water projects and seven sewer projects in northern Saskatchewan, of which $2 million will be CSIP funding;
  - $800,000 will be available under the Northern Emergency Water and Sewer Program for emergency repairs to water and sewer systems;
  - $283,000 will be made available for providing engineering operating and maintenance expertise and advice to northern communities on their water and sewage systems; and
  - provide funding to support the Meewasin Valley Authority with the green space development associated with the South Downtown Riverfront Development Project and to the Regina Exhibition Park for a new multi-purpose facility. [2004-05 planned result]

- All remaining CSIP funding was allocated. Ninety-two infrastructure projects were

announced under the CSIP for $30 million of federal and provincial funding. More than 65 per cent of these projects were green municipal projects. Fifty-eight water and sewer projects, including 13 in northern Saskatchewan, were allocated more than $16 million in federal and provincial funds. The $10 million under the strategic component of CSIP was allocated to transportation projects in the cities and rural municipalities and $2 million was allocated to northern water and sewer projects. As at March 31, 2005, $88 million in federal and provincial funds was paid out under CSIP projects, including multi-year projects approved in previous years.

- A Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (CSMRIF) agreement was signed with the federal government on January 14, 2005, where the federal and provincial governments will each provide $38 million over four years, with participating communities expected to contribute $76 million.

- For northern water and sewer:
  - $6.2 million was spent under the Northern Water and Sewer Program in 29 communities;
  - $70,000 was spent under the Northern Emergency Water and Sewer Program for emergency repairs to water and sewer systems that arose during the year;
  - a contract was signed for $287,900 for engineering operating and maintenance expertise and advice to northern communities on their water and sewage systems; and
  - funding shortfalls in the existing Northern Water and Sewer Program were addressed by allocating $2 million from the strategic portion of CSIP.

- As at March 31, 2005, $2.6 million was paid out to the Meewasin Valley Authority project and $2.0 million was paid out to the Regina Exhibition Park multi-purpose facility.

- Provide municipalities with an additional $10 million in revenue sharing for a total of $85 million in revenue sharing. [2004-05 planned result] and [2004-05 Performance Plan Summary]

  - $7.4 million was provided to urban municipalities, $1.6 million to rural municipalities and $1 million to northern municipalities. Of the $1 million to northern municipalities, $822,000 was allocated for water and sewer projects.

- Implement new revenue sharing formulas to distribute funding within urban, rural and northern pools for municipalities. [2004-05 planned result]

  - A distribution formula for rural municipalities was implemented in 2003-04. A new per capita distribution formula was negotiated with the cities and implemented in 2004-05. For northern revenue sharing distribution, starting in 2004-05, $822,000 is allocated to water and sewer projects, with the remaining amount allocated to the communities based on an equal percentage increase.

- Continue to negotiate the urban development agreements and sub-agreements to address priority areas based on intergovernmental co-ordination of the three levels of government. [2004-05 planned result]

  - Negotiations were undertaken with Western Economic Diversification and Regina and Saskatoon. As part of the 2005-06 budget, $500,000 was approved for Regina and Saskatoon urban development agreements, which will leverage $1 million in federal funding and $500,000 from Regina and Saskatoon, for total funding of $2 million per year as part of a five year agreement.

- Implement initiatives to support voluntary restructuring. Specific initiatives are to be determined in consultation with the municipal sector. [2004-05 planned result]

  - In April 2004, A Voluntary Guide to Municipal Restructuring was released and provided on the department's website. It

was developed in partnership with the municipal associations and provides information on examining the potential for restructuring and a step-by-step guide to the restructuring process.

- Two voluntary municipal restructurings plus 12 municipal boundary alternations were prepared and approved.

- Assist municipalities to comply with legislation, regulations and financial reporting. [2004-05 planned result]

  - The department:
    - began consultations regarding a new advisory/governance model for the Great Sand Hills;
    - continued to work with municipalities to meet financial reporting accounting standards and file reports on time and electronically;
    - provided workshops to rural administrators on recent municipal legislation changes and to license inspectors and building officials on licensing processes in urban and rural legislation and access to information processes;
    - assisted a municipality that had ceased to operate to elect a council and put an administrator in place;
    - continued to provide advisory and planning advice; and
    - reviewed and approved 362 municipal planning bylaws and 936 subdivision applications.

- Build municipal capacity by enhancing municipal governance and administration learning opportunities by implementing:

  - the municipal leadership development program;
  - the northern education plan;
  - e-learning opportunities; and
  - the results of a review of post-secondary certification of administrators. [2004-05 planned result]

  - Through a partnership management committee with the municipal sector, led by the department, 27 Municipal Leadership Development Program workshops were delivered to more than 700 municipal officials.

  - The department established, in partnership with the municipal associations, *The Municipalities Act* Preparedness Committee to develop and implement an education and training program in 2005 to support an effective transition to the new legislation. A series of 23 presentations and workshops is under development.

  - New North spent $24,000 under the Northern Development Agreement to assist with northern municipal computer training. The department is working with New North to develop a training plan for workshops for the winter and spring.

  - The department successfully concluded facilitating a working relationship between the urban and rural municipal administrator associations and the Universities of Regina and Saskatchewan to address a shortage of municipal administrators.

- Focus providing services to municipal officials and the general public through web-based resources, including:

  - online planning and advisory information;
  - online regulatory reviews; and
  - portals to other information and services. [2004-05 planned result]

  - The department designed and implemented a new and improved website for the Municipal Relations Division that provides improved client services and allows for quick and efficient updating of information and information to be accessed by persons with disabilities.

  - The following were developed and posted on the department website:
    - 12 sample municipal bylaws;
    - three administrative resource guides (Rural Election Calendar, Municipal Administrators Guide and Organized Hamlet Guide);

- piloted municipal financial planning course; and
- numerous other new documents and updating of existing documents.

- Resource documents are being developed to support the transition to *The Municipalities Act*.

- Draft amendments to *The Subdivision Regulations* were prepared and are expected to be completed by July 2005 that will provide for online subdivision applications.

■ Continue to consult with the municipal sector and undertake discussions when approached by the federal government on alternative revenue sources. [2004-05 planned result]

- In March 2004, the Municipal Forum established a working committee that includes representatives from the municipal sector to develop a coordinated response to the federal government's New Deal, which includes alternative revenue sources for municipalities, such as the federal fuel tax.

■ Enhance northern planning services. [2004-05 planned result]

- The department held meetings with the Town of La Ronge, the Village of Air Ronge and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band to establish implementation procedures for the Northern Planning Commission. Consensus was reached on the members of the commission and members were appointed by the band, town and village.

In addition, the department made progress on the following commitments, which were made following the release of our *2004-05 Performance Plan:*

■ This year, $10.98 million will be paid to communities under the Grants-in-Lieu of Taxes Program. This includes 13 cities, 29 northern areas, 23 rural municipalities and 72 towns/villages and resort villages.

- $10.98 million in Grants-in-Lieu of Taxes was paid out to communities in 2004-05.

In addition to progress made on planned actions, other key results include:

- A comprehensive action plan was developed by an internal working committee to address specific concerns raised by the Provincial Auditor regarding the Northern Revenue Sharing Trust Account. Recommendations from the working committee have been, or are being, implemented. Work was also undertaken to develop a strategic plan for the account.

- Suggested voluntary standard practices for the clean up, reclamation and maintenance of abandoned rail lines were developed and discussed with Canadian Pacific Railway and Canadian National. Further refinements are being made.

Measurement Results

Number and per cent of municipalities whose financial reporting statements are compliant with the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) standards, filed on time and electronically (broken down by southern and northern municipalities).

	2002 Reports	2003 Reports
Southern Municipalities		
• Compliance with PSAB	538 (72%)	795 (100%)
• Filed on time	745 (93%)	778 (98%)
• Filed electronically	0	0
Northern Municipalities		
• Compliance with PSAB	0	16 (67%)
• Filed on time	7 (30%)	9 (38%)
• Filed electronically	0	0

Data source: Financial statements data file is maintained by the department. The financial statements are provided by the municipalities.

Financial information is to be compliant with PSAB standards. The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants sets PSAB accounting standards for public sector financial reporting. The Provincial Auditor has repeatedly called for these standards. Filing information that meets the PSAB standards and is on time (by June 1 for rural municipalities, July 1 for small urban municipalities and September 1 for cities, of the following year) contributes to timely municipal accountability and transparency to the ratepayers and good local government. Electronic information is more efficient. This information is also used by the department to allocate funding to the municipalities.

The department monitors the financial information to ensure it is filed in accordance with the legislation, follows up on missing reports and assists the municipalities in filing the required information. Penalties can be applied if there is non-compliance. Also, training is provided to municipal administrators on financial reporting.

An external factor that affects performance results is that new municipal administrators being hired could impede improving performance.

The impact third parties had on performance results is that the municipal associations provide the training in partnership with the department.

Number and percentage of municipalities with planning bylaws in place.

Baseline - 2003	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005
416 - 51%	459 - 56%

Data source: Manual files in the Community Planning Branch.

A community plan can provide a vision of community goals, objectives and principles that can contribute to building stronger communities. While municipalities are not required to have community planning bylaws, effective planning can co-ordinate infrastructure and services, support accountability and transparency, encourage economic development and promote sustainable environmental resource management. The department is responsible for promoting and overseeing community planning and development policies in Saskatchewan. Some municipalities may not have the capacity or resources to develop and administer municipal planning bylaws. The department will be providing training sessions, workshops and guidance to municipalities on development and zoning issues.

Objective 2. A respectful and positive relationship between the provincial government and municipal partners and other interest groups.

A respectful and positive relationship is needed between the provincial government and its municipal partners and other interest groups to be able to work together in a collaborative manner to ensure that the needs of Saskatchewan residents are met. The department works with SUMA, SARM, New North-SANC Services Inc., PARCS, RMAAS, UMAAS, the cities and other organizations to ensure mechanisms are in place for open communication.

A survey in February 2004 indicated that the municipal sector was very satisfied with its relationship with the department. In 2004-05, this positive relationship has been reinforced through

the use of the Municipal Forum and working together on the new Municipalities Act and an agreement with the federal government for funding under the 'New Deal'.

Key Results

- Implement a strategy to build on the improved provincial-municipal relationship. [2004-05 planned result]
  - The department works with the municipal sector in a collaborative-consultative manner on all municipal issues and initiatives to ensure a continued good relationship with the municipal sector. The new Municipal Forum is used to address key municipal issues and opportunities.
  - The department worked with the municipal sector to develop *The Municipalities Act*.
  - A new northern municipal consultation strategy was established with New North-SANC.
- Renew the municipal-provincial roundtable, transforming it into a planning, consultation and results-focused forum to address issues that are of importance to the municipal sector, and co-ordinate a maximum of six forums and northern roundtables. [2004-05 planned result]
  - Five Municipal Forums were held to discuss matters such as the proposed federal 'New Deal' for cities and communities, consolidating the urban and rural municipal acts, education property tax and SARM's 'Clearing the Path' initiative. Two northern roundtable meetings were held to discuss issues pertaining to 10 provincial government departments and agencies.
- Co-ordinate a minimum of three formal sessions of the department-municipal steering committee of senior executives to develop programs, services and partnerships. [2004-05 planned result]
  - Two formal sessions of the Municipal Programs and Services Steering Committee were held to discuss matters such as: progress of the Municipal Leadership Development Program Subcommittee, funding assistance for voluntary restructuring publications, the department's proposed online subdivision application and municipal financial reporting initiatives, and changes to the online municipal directory.
- Continue to work with municipal partners to address municipal governance and administration issues. [2004-05 planned result]
  - The municipal sector requested that the emphasis be placed on preparing for the new Municipalities Act and the Municipal Leadership Development Program in 2005-06. A Municipal Act Preparedness Committee was established to support transition to the new legislation.
- Implement a co-ordinated strategy for consultations on matters that impact the municipal sector. [2004-05 planned result]
  - Consultations with the southern municipal sector are coordinated under the new Municipal Forum, which is being used for planning and decision making with the municipal sector. Two working committees of the Municipal Forum coordinated consultations on the consolidation of the urban and rural municipal acts and the federal government's proposed 'New Deal' for cities and communities. Also, it was agreed to establish in the spring 2005, a third working committee to review revenue sharing.
  - A new northern municipal consultation strategy was established with New North-SANC. One of two administrative consultations were held, with a second one planned for June 2005.

Measurement Results

The level of satisfaction of municipal associations and larger cities with the department.

Baseline - February 2004	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005
76% were satisfied with the way Municipal Relations' shared information 78% were satisfied with Municipal Relations' formal and informal consultations; 82% were satisfied with the partnership and joint initiatives between Municipal Relations' and municpal partners; 86% were satisfied with Municipal Relations' participation in municipal partners' events; and 84% were satisfied with working relationship between Municipal Relations' and municipal partners.	No results will be available in 2004-05. The next survey will be undertaken in the fall/winter of 2005-06

Data source: Survey conducted by a consultant on behalf of GR.

Municipal associations' and larger cities' satisfaction with the department in these key areas has been determined by independent interviews. Nineteen interviews were undertaken by an outside consultant. The level of municipal satisfaction in these key areas indicates to what extent there is a respectful and positive relationship between the department and the municipal partners.

Objective 3. A legislative framework that provides clear municipal and provincial responsibilities and balances local autonomy with provincial and public interests.

For efficient and effective government, it is important that the roles and responsibilities of local governments and the provincial government are clearly defined in legislation, local governments have the authority and flexibility to deal with local issues and provincial involvement is removed where there is no overriding provincial interest. At the same time, local governments should be accountable and public interests must be protected. The department consults with SARM, SUMA, RMAAS, UMAAS, New North-SANC, the cities and other organizations regarding legislative changes.

Progress in 2004-05 has been significant. The new *Municipalities Act* and phase one renewal of *The Planning and Development Act, 1983* clarify municipal and provincial responsibilities and balance local autonomy with provincial and public interests.

Key Results

- Conduct consultations on and develop a consolidated municipal act. [2004-05 planned result]
  - The Department, SUMA and SARM worked together to draft a new *Municipalities Act* that replaces the former urban and rural municipal Acts. A draft bill was prepared and introduced during the 2004 fall legislative session. The department undertook additional consultations with the municipal sector and in the 2005 spring legislative session, the Act was reintroduced and approved. The new Act comes into force on January 1, 2006.
- Conduct consultations on and work towards a new planning act for the 2005 legislative session. [2004-05 planned result]
  - Amendments for phase one renewal of *The Planning and Development Act, 1983*, were introduced and approved in the spring 2005 legislative session and planning for phase two renewal was undertaken.

- Make amendments to *The Lloydminster Municipal Amalgamation Act* and enact a new Lloydminster Charter. [2004-05 planned result]

  - Work continued to develop a new Act and a new charter. Work was delayed because Alberta requested that the project be put on hold until after its election. After the Alberta election, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Lloydminster developed amendments to the existing Charter to enable Lloydminster to use the Alberta property assessment and taxation regime in 2005.

- Implement regulations on public reporting of pricing and capital investment information on municipal waterworks. [2004-05 planned result]

  - Consultations within government were finalized. Consultations were undertaken with the municipal sector and other stakeholders in September 2004 and March 2005.

In addition, the department made progress on the following commitments, which were made following the release of our 2004-05 Performance Plan:

- Municipalities will soon have more options for the enforcement of unpaid municipal parking tickets.

- The departments of Justice and Government Relations and municipal sector representatives are developing legislation to implement the changes.

Measurement Results

A performance measure related to this objective was under development during 2004-05.

Objective 4. A property tax system that is fair, transparent and understandable and reflects provincial interests.

Each year, approximately $1.1 billion is collected by municipalities in municipal and school property taxes. It is important that the property tax system is fair and that Saskatchewan people understand the property tax system and how their property taxes are determined. The department works with SUMA, SARM, UMAAS, RMAAS, SAMA and commercial and residential groups to ensure appropriate tax tools are available to the municipalities and to set percentages of value for revaluations, and to provide advice to government on the funding, structure, transparency and accountability of SAMA.

Significant progress was made in 2004-05, as additional funding was provided to SAMA so that it can perform its property tax assessment services, and percentages of value for the 2005 revaluation were established that reflect provincial interests.

Key Results

- Provide new SAMA funding and governance changes to ensure a sustainable and stable assessment system, as recommended by the Boughen Commission. [2004-05 planned result]

  - The Boughen Commission recommended that SAMA, local government and the province should create greater stability in the assessment system. On behalf of the school divisions, the Department of Learning provided $750,000 to SAMA in 2004-05, with an additional $875,000 to be provided in each of the following years to reach $2.5 million annually. The governance of SAMA was changed so that the board has two representatives from the education sector and two additional provincial representatives. Legislative amendments were made to improve the assessment roll confirmation and quality assurance processes and to strengthen the integrity, transparency and accountability of the assessment system.

- Set percentages of value for 2005 revaluation that are applied to property assessments to calculate municipal and school property taxes. [2004-05 planned result]

  - In the spring of 2004, using a computerized model, the impact of the upcoming 2005 revaluation was analyzed. Consultations were undertaken on the property tax shifts that will take place from the revaluation. In October 2004, the government announced the percentages

of value for the 2005 revaluation which remain the same for property classes except for pasture land, which is reduced from 50 per cent to 40 per cent. Regulations were put in place to implement the percentages of value.

In addition, the department made progress on the following commitments, which were made following the release of our *2004-05 Performance Plan:*

- Government announced that $110 million in education property tax relief would be provided through property tax notices issued by municipalities in 2005 and 2006.
- The municipalities have agreed to administer the education property tax credits through their property tax billings, with $110 million in credits being provided over 2005 and 2006. Property tax payers will receive a credit of eight per cent of the education property tax levy on their 2005 property tax notice, with a cap of $2,500 on commercial/industrial and multi-unit residential properties.

Measurement Results

Percentage of people that have full access to detailed assessment data without having to file an appeal (subject to confidentiality legislation).

Baseline - 2003	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005
18%	18%

Data source: Survey conducted by Government Relations.

Currently, there are seven assessment valuation service providers serving municipalities across the province. For 2001, none of the assessment providers provided full public access to detailed assessment data (exception - the City of Regina allowed access to residential information only). In 2002, due to Court of Queen's Bench and Board of Revision challenges, all data was made accessible once an appeal was launched.

With full access to the detailed assessment information, property taxpayers can determine how the assessor calculated the fair value of their property. This is consistent with the principle of transparency. Transparency of information strengthens the property taxpayers' understanding of the assessing authorities' determination of their fair value assessment.

Property taxpayers can use this information to determine whether their property was valued fairly and accurately and whether an appeal should be undertaken.

Goal 4. Saskatchewan's identity, heritage and the achievements of our people are honoured, promoted and celebrated.

Objective 1. The province's recognition programs and symbols are reflective of our province's diversity.

It is important to have recognition programs and symbols in our society. Symbols officially represent who we are as Saskatchewan residents and what our economy and society are about. Recognition programs are a way of bestowing public recognition on deserving citizens who contribute to the well-being of us all and whose achievements are deserving of public recognition. Our recognition programs and symbols should be reflective of the diversity of our society.

The Saskatchewan Honours and Awards Program consisting of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal, the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal, the Saskatchewan Distinguished Service Award and the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service, recognized and honoured many Saskatchewan citizens, and individuals from outside our province, who have made significant contributions.

The Saskatchewan Centennial Medal Program launched its program with the first presentation being held on January 1, 2005, thereby assisting in the 100th Anniversary kick-off celebrations.

Diversity of nominations (e.g. women, Aboriginal and rural/small urban) in the provincial Honours and Awards Program continues to be a challenge for two reasons: 1) limited financial resources restrict the ability to widely promote the program,

and 2) geographical challenges in promoting the program throughout the province.

The Provincial Secretary Division promotes provincial symbols, while maintaining appropriate policies.

Key Results

- Co-ordinate, promote and manage the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal. [2004-05 planned result]
  - The Office of Protocol and Honours has received positive feedback with respect to the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal Program and the related presentation events from recipients and their family members, elected officials and other community members from around Saskatchewan. The eligible agencies have been supportive of program and events.
- Actively promote, co-ordinate and manage the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service (PAEPS) to all eligible departments and agencies. [2004-05 planned result]
  - The Office of Protocol and Honours corresponds and meets with senior officials of eligible departments and agencies to create an awareness of the Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service and to encourage nominations. Nominations from a variety of eligible departments and agencies have been received. Feedback from recipients, nominees, public servants and elected members has been positive.
- Plan and implement further development of honours and awards, including a Centennial Medal. [2004-05 planned result]
  - The Centennial Medal Program was implemented in 2005 and is ongoing.
- Manage Centennial plans as they relate to Government Relations' mandate, in conjunction with the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation. [2004-05 planned result]
  - The Saskatchewan Remembers Committee was appointed to advise the government on and, in some cases, coordinate certain commemorative initiatives such as the Year of the Veteran, during 2005.
  - The Saskatchewam Centennial Medal Program is coordinated by Government Relations. Provincial Secretary meets with the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation to discuss Centennial plans.

Measurement Results

Proportion of Aboriginal people, women and rural/small urban in Honours and nominations.

Baseline - March 31, 2003	2003-04 year-end results	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005
Aboriginal - 5%	Aboriginal - 4%	Aboriginal - 4.5%
Women - 37%	Women - 30%	Women 34.5%
Rural/small urban - 27%	Rural/small urban - 32.5%	Rural/small urban - 33%

Data source: Actual nominations received, as recorded by GR.

Calculations: Percentage of nominations received in each category.

2001 statistics indicate that 53 per cent of Saskatchewan's population lives in urban centres (13 cities) and 47 per cent live in rural Saskatchewan. By measuring the number of nominations received from these various groups for the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal, we will have an indication of how well these programs reflect the diversity in our population.

Factors that shape performance results include limited funding available to communicate the message for the Saskatchewan Order of Merit (SOM) and Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal (SVM) to the targeted communities (Aboriginal, Women and rural/small urban). As well, as at July 1, 2002, Saskatchewan's population was 64.3 per cent urban and 35.7 per cent rural.

The Premier's Award for Excellence in the Public Service:
Number of nominations received
Number of departments represented in nominations

Baseline - 2003-04	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005
41 nominations from 16 departments/agencies	21 nominations from 10 departments/agencies

Data source: Actual nominations received, as recorded by GR.

Our public servants come from a variety of backgrounds. By measuring the number of nominations received and the number of awards bestowed, we will have an indication of whether this program reflects the diversity of departments within the public service. We initially anticipated that the number of nominations would increase each year. Rather, employees have focused on a smaller number of high caliber nominations, many of them for teams with a large membership.

The long-term success of this program will rely on the continuous awareness and promotion of the Premier's Award by public servants and the public-at-large.

To maintain and improve performance the department promotes this program to public servants and external stakeholders through news releases, e-mails and presentations to agency designated award representatives.

The Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal:
The number of nominations received; and
The number of eligible agencies represented in nominations

Baseline - March 31, 2004	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005
497 nominations received	298 nominations received
9 out of 11 eligible agencies represented	9 out of 11 eligible agencies represented

Data source: Actual nominations received, as recorded by GR.

Individuals who work in areas that protect Saskatchewan people and property come from a diverse population throughout the Province. By measuring the number of nominations received and the number of awards bestowed, we will have an indication of how this program reflects the diversity of agencies within the Province.

A clear majority of eligible agencies are represented in nominations and recipients of the Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal. The agencies not represented do not yet have qualified personnel. The Saskatchewan Protective Services Medal Advisory Committee, when reviewing nominations, ensures that exemplary service is reflected in each nominee.

Objective 2. Government House Museum and Heritage Property is an integral part of Saskatchewan's centennial celebrations.

Commemoration of historical information and artifacts is an important way to honour our past. Government House Museum and Heritage Property is a National Historic Site that had a significant role in shaping the political and social character of Western Canada as it developed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Government House is a working museum that serves as a landmark and legacy for residents of Saskatchewan.

Construction of the Government House Centennial Project Addition, the Phase I Queen Elizabeth II Wing was commenced in 2004 and successfully completed in time for the visit and official opening by The Queen in May 2005. Construction of the Phase II J.E.N. Weibe Interpretive Center was also commenced in 2004, was 95 per cent complete for the royal visit, and was also officially opened. This centennial project will last as a key provincial legacy for the people of Saskatchewan while honouring and commemorating the historical significance this National Historic Site.

Key Results

- Produce media (radio, print, signage, bill boards) ads promoting, marketing and celebrating Government House as a tourism destination point. [2004-05 planned result]
  - Government House administration streamlined marketing initiatives based on

the results of the 2003-04 visitor survey. Increased resources were allocated to markets where surveys indicated poor visitor response.

- Poll Saskatchewan residents to ensure promotional materials are broad-based and educational. [2004-05 planned result]
  - Government House conducted surveys of seasonal visitors during the 2003-04 and 2004-05 summer. The surveys were initiated to determine the effectiveness of current marketing strategies and expenditures directed toward seasonal travelers and visitors to Government House. During the 2003-04 year, surveys indicated that marketing resources directed toward the inclusion of Government House services in the Tourism Regina Visitor Guide resulted in visits by 26 per cent of surveyed respondents. Following renewed marketing strategies toward the 2004-05 Tourism Regina Visitor Guide, visits from surveyed respondents increased to 37 per cent in the same category. Increases were not noted in all respondent categories, however, the survey results are providing detailed information enabling marketing resources to be targeted toward improving responses and visits from key target audiences like those travelers who pick up the Tourism Regina booklets.
- Expand Government House with a major addition completed, opened and celebrated during the provincial centennial year. [2004-05 planned result] and [2004-05 Performance Plan Summary]
  - The construction of the Government House Centennial Project addition began in January 2004 and occupancy was obtained in February 2005. The grand opening by The Queen took place on May 20, 2005.
- Build an interpretive centre within historic Government House completed for the provincial centennial year. [2004-05 planned result] and [2004-05 Performance Plan Summary]
  - The Government House Centennial Project, phase II Interpretive Centre "design and build" contract was awarded to Regina based exhibit design team, Beauchesne and Company in August 2004. Development commenced in September 2004 with completion in May 2005, in time for the opening by The Queen.
- Restore the seven acre Government House grounds to an Edwardian design developed circa 1900. [2004-05 planned result]
  - The Government House Management Committee and the Government House Foundation continue to seek funding for this phase of the project.

Measurement Results

Awareness of Government House Museum and Heritage Property

Baseline - January 2002	2004-05 actual results achieved as at March 31, 2005
51%	First poll was undertaken in January 2002 and subsequent omnibus polls have not included the establishment of Government House questions.

Data source: Government polling records.

Given that only one poll has been conducted, trend information and measurement results are not available.

In order to gauge progress with respect to this measure, and in order to maintain/improve performance, Government House administration has developed an internal survey of summer season visitors to determine the effectiveness of yearly marketing and advertising initiatives. Visitors to Government House are asked to complete a short survey prior to leaving in order to determine how and why tourists find their way to visit Government House. These surveys have enabled Government House administration to analyze numerous marketing vehicles and to streamline marketing to enhance target markets.

2004-05 Financial Results

The financial results below reflect the entire Government Relations portion of the former Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs, as well as administrative costs associated with the Aboriginal Affairs component of the former Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs. For a complete report of the financial results of the entire former Department of Government Relations and Aboriginal Affairs, this information can be referenced in conjunction with the information contained in the 2004-05 Annual Report of the new Department of First Nations and Métis Relations.

Summary of Expenditures

The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted expenditures by subvote and subprogram. Variance explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than 5% and $100,000.

In thousands of dollars

Subvote/Subprogram	Original Estimates	Actual Expenditures	Variance Over/(Under)	
Administration	**2,890**	**2,913**	**23**	
Accommodation and Central Services	**2,149**	**2,178**	**29**	
Intergovernmental Relations	**3,671**	**4,369**	**698**	
Federal-Provincial Relations	549	408	(141)	1
International Relations	810	1,767	957	2
Constitutional Relations	263	206	(57)	
Trade Policy	523	481	(42)	
Immigration	1,144	1,136	(8)	
Office of French-language Co-ordination	382	371	(11)	
Municipal Financial Assistance	**132,278**	**130,007**	**(2,271)**	
Urban Revenue Sharing	44,109	44,042	(67)	
Rural Revenue Sharing	33,961	34,015	54	
Northern Revenue Sharing	6,980	6,980	0	
Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program	22,658	20,572	(2,086)	3
Transit Assistance for the Disabled	2,650	2,650	0	
Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes	11,500	10,983	(517)	
SAMA (Authorized by Law)	4,000	4,345	345	4
SAMA (Supplementary)	1,820	1,820	0	
Municipal Infrastructure	4,600	4,600	0	
Municipal Relations	**4,809**	**4,626**	**(183)**	
Provincial Secretary	**2,851**	**2,190**	**(661)**	
Lieutenant Governor's Office	444	570	126	5
Office of Protocol and Honours	689	1,111	422	6
Government House	468	509	41	
Government House Redevelopment	1,250	0	(1,250)	7

Saskatchewan Municipal Board	**1,060**	**984**	**(76)**	
Administration - Local Government Committee	708	713	5	
Planning Appeals Committee	85	84	(1)	
Assessment Appeals Committee	267	187	(80)	
Total Appropriation	**149,708**	**147,267**	**(2,441)**	
Capital Assets	**0**	**1,250**	**1,250**	
Capital Asset Acquisitions	0	1,250	1,250	7
Total Department Expenditure	**149,708**	**148,517**	**(1,191)**	

Explanations of Major Variances

1) Savings realized due to lower than originally anticipated program requirements.

2) Primarily as a result of financial support provided for tsunami disaster assistance to southern Asia and eastern Africa.

3) Fewer projects were completed than originally anticipated, primarily as a result of unfavourable weather conditions and municipalities' difficulty in meeting federal and provincial environmental and regulatory requirements.

4) Additional grant funding provided to assist with operating pressures.

5) Additional operational requirements related to Centennial initiatives.

6) Additional operating requirements primarily as a result of costs associated with the Royal Visit and other Centennial projects.

7) Funding initially identified as a transfer for public services was subsequently reclassified as a capital expenditure.

In 2004-05, $132 million of the department's expenditures was provided to third parties. The majority of this amount was used to provide municipal financial assistance.

Summary of Revenues

The department's major revenue relates to cost-shared agreements with the federal government and is collected on behalf of government. All revenue collected is deposited in the General Revenue Fund. A summary of the department's 2004-05 budgeted revenue compared to actual revenue is presented below. Variance explanations are provided for all variances that are greater than $100,000.

In thousands of dollars

Revenue Category	Budget	Actual Revenue	Variance Over/(Under)	
Revenue				
Other Licenses and Permits	**224**	**288**	**64**	
Subdivision Fees	223	288	65	
Property and Building Rental	1	0	(1)	
Other Revenues	**5**	**63**	**58**	
Casual Revenue	0	4	4	
Refunds - Previous Years Expenditures	5	59	54	
Realized Gain or Loss	0	0	0	
Sales, Service, Service Fees	**290**	**255**	**(35)**	
Management Fees	200	200	0	
Debenture Authorization	25	16	(9)	
Miscellaneous Services	3	6	3	
Other Service Fees	62	33	(29)	
Transfers from the Federal Government	**12,061**	**11,738**	**(323)**	
Canada-Saskatchewan Infrastructure Program	11,328	10,880	(448)	1
Government House Redevelopment	450	456	6	
OFLC - Official Languages Agreements	283	245	(38)	
Enhanced Language Training Agreement	0	92	92	
AFC Agreement	0	65	65	
Department Revenue	**12,580**	**12,344**	**(236)**	

Explanation of Major Variances:

1) Fewer projects completed during 2004-05 than originally anticipated.

Financial Accountability Statement

From a fiscal accountability perspective, Government Relations is responsible for ensuring:

- available funding goes to the highest priority needs;
- value is obtained for the money provided;
- compliance with existing legislation and regulations;
- proper controls are in place to safeguard public assets; and
- appropriate results are reported to the public and the legislature.

There are a number of checks and balances in place to ensure these responsibilities are met. They include:

Audited Results - The Provincial Auditor's Office has legislative responsibility to audit Government Relations and to publish the results.

Accountable to Legislature - Government Relations, like all government departments, is required to appear before the Public Accounts Committee of the Legislature. In addition, the department's annual budget is published in the government's Budget Estimates. Other departmental spending is detailed in the public accounts, and the Minister of Government Relations appears before the Legislature's Committee of Finance.

Public Reporting - The annual report is one of several documents published by the department that helps to establish accountability.

For More Information

Additional information is available at our website: http://www.gr.gov.sk.ca. The website includes both general and more detailed information about the department, its programs and services, and legislation for which the department is responsible.

For further information or to provide feedback about the department's 2004-05 Annual Report or performance results, please contact us at:

Phone: (306) 787-2635
Email: info@gr.gov.sk.ca

Mailing address:
Government Relations
14th Floor, 1855 Victoria Avenue
Regina SK S4P 3V7

Appendix – Legislation

Government Relations is responsible for the following pieces of legislation.

Municipal

- *The Assessment Appraisers Act*
- *The Assessment Management Agency Act*
- *The Border Areas Act*
- *The Cities Act*
- *The City of Lloydminster Act*
- *The Community Planning Profession Act*
- *The Controverted Municipal Elections Act*
- *The Cut Knife Reference Act*
- *The Department of Rural Development Act (subject to OC 206/2002)*
- *The Department of Urban Affairs Act (subject to OC206/2002)*
- *The Flin Flon Extension of Boundaries Act, 1952*
- *The Local Government Election Act*
- *The Local Improvements Act, 1993*
- *The Municipal Board Act*
- *The Municipal Debentures Repayment Act*
- *The Municipal Development and Loan (Saskatchewan) Act*
- *The Municipal Expropriation Act*
- *The Municipal Industrial Development Corporations Act*
- *The Municipal Revenue Sharing Act*
- *The Municipal Tax Sharing (Potash) Act*
- *The Municipality Improvements Assistance (Saskatchewan) Act*
- *The Northern Municipalities Act*
- *The Planning and Development Act, 1983*
- *The Rural Municipal Administrators Act*
- *The Rural Municipality Act, 1989*
- *The Rural Development Act*
- *The Subdivisions Act*
- *The Tax Enforcement Act*
- *The Time Act*
- *The Urban Municipal Administrators Act*
- *The Urban Municipality Act, 1984*

Provincial Secretary

- *The Historic Properties Foundations Act*
- *The Provincial Emblems and Honours Act* (administered by Government Relations on behalf of the Premier of Saskatchewan)
- *The Provincial Secretary's Act and Regulations*